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Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Arizona Fossil Wood.—Identification of the. P. H. Dudley. (Journ. N. Y. Micros. Soc., i., p. 220.)

This silicified wood is of many species, a few of which prove to be *Araucariæ.*

Aspidium Oreopteris, Swartz. T. J. W. Burgess. (Botan. Gazette, xi., p. 63.

This rare fern, hitherto only known as American from specimens collected in Unalaska by L. M. Turner, has recently been discovered by Professor Macoun on Mount Dawson, British Columbia, at an altitude of about 6,500 feet. The fronds are described as narrower and more graceful than those of the Unalaskan and of most European forms.

Botanizing in Texas. J. Reverchon. (Botan. Gazette, xi., pp. 56–59.)

Elastic Fruit in Mammillaria. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Phil. Acad. Sci., 1885, p. 378.)

Development of the Root in Botrychium ternatum. Douglas H. Campbell. (Botan. Gazette, xi., pp. 49-53, plate IV.)

The roots of the *Ophioglossaceæ* are much less numerous than those of the true ferns, but of correspondingly greater size; a single principal one only is developed at the base of each leaf. They are thick and fleshy, and almost destitute of fibrils. The root-caps do not present the stratified arrangement of cells seen in *Filices,* but walls are soon formed in all directions. The paper is well illustrated and thoroughly discusses the anatomy of the roots.

Fruit of Opuntia. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1885, pp. 365, 366.)

A series of specimens were exibited showing a gradual change from the joint or frond to the fruit of an unknown species, allied to *O. Braziliensis.*

Fungi inducing decay in Timber. P. H. Dudley. (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., v., pp. 110-118.)

Seventeen species are enumerated and many others are yet to be determined. Among the most destructive is *Lentinus* *lepideus*, Fr., which Mr. Dudley has found attacking *Pinus palustris*, Mill., and *P. mitis*, when these are used for ties, bridge timber and cars. *Polyporus versicolor*, Fr., also is very common on white and red oak and chestnut, attacking the sap-wood. *P. applanatus*, Fr., has only been identified on the heart-wood of white oak, though common on the sap-wood of many other trees.

Inflorescence of the Compositæ. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Phil. Acad. Sci., 1885, p. 376.)

John Williamson. R. M. Kelly. (Southern Bivouac, i., pp. 626-638.)

A most interesting account of his life by one who evidently knew him well and loved him, illustrated by photographic reproductions of Williamson's original plates of Kentucky ferns.

Kansas Mosses.—Third Contribution to the Knowledge of. Eugene A. Rau. (Bull. Washburn College Lab. Nat. History, i., p. 114.)

Eight species, additional to those already determined and catalogued in preceding numbers of the same periodical are enumerated, and new localities given for several species already reported.

Lenticular Markings of various Coniferæ compared. J. L. Zabriskie. (Journ. N. Y. Micros. Soc., i., pp. 218-220.)

Mr. Zabriskie finds the largest lenticular cell-markings in wood of the Sugar Pine (*Pinus Lambertiana*, Dougl.), where they are about one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter. Among the next largest are those of *Pinus palustris*, Mill., *Sequoia sempervirens*, Endl., *S. gigantea*, Dec., and *Pinus ponderosa*, Dougl., while the smallest noted are from the western Arbor Vitæ (*Thuja gigantea*, Nutt.) these being but one two-thousandth of an inch across. He remarks that the number of markings in a certain length of cell bears an inverse ratio to their size.

Mildews of Indiana. J. N. Rose. (Botan. Gazette, xi., pp. 60-63.)

Twelve species, with their host plants, are enumerated, and critical and descriptive notes given; they were all collected in the vicinity of Wabash College.

Occurrence of Red Snow. Charles Hallock. (Amer. Month. Micros. Journ., vii., pp. 42, 43.)

Origin of Leaf-forms.—Notes and Criticisms on Grant Allen's Theory of the. N. L. Britton. (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., iii., pp. 38-44.)

Phyllostictas of North America. George Martin. (Journ. Mycol., ii., pp. 25, 26; concluded.)

It appears, from Mr. Martin's enumeration, that we have 70 species of the genus.

Pithophora Kewensis. W. G. DeWitt. (Journ. N. Y. Micros. Soc., i., p. 218.)

This Alga, originally discovered in the Water Lily tank at Kew Gardens, was supposed by Wittrock to have been an importation from Brazil, but Mr. A. D. Balen has found it in several places near Plainfield, New Jersey, so its distribution is not alone tropical. Mr. DeWitt states that it grows well in his aquarium, where it has fruited during the past two months.

Quercus prinoides, Willd. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1885, p. 365.)

Mr. Meehan exhibited a series of fruiting branches of this oak, showing remarkable variation in leaf-forms, which in some were orbicular, in others lanceolate; some had lobed and wavy margins, while others were quite entire. The plants all grew within a few feet of each other.

Recent Notes and Descriptions of Eriogoneæ. C. C. Parry. (Botan. Gazette, xi., pp. 54-56.)

Dr. Parry criticizes the results reached by Mrs. M. K. Curran published in the Bulletin of the California Academy.

Sketch of Louis D. De Schweinitz (with portrait.) W. A. Kellerman. (Journ. Mycol., ii., pp. 31-34.)

Staining and Double Staining Vegetable Tissues. (Amer. Month. Micros. Journ., vii., pp. 43-48.)

The Editor republishes the methods of Dr. George S. Beatty, which were originally contributed to the "Popular Science Monthly," and says that in his opinion they are as good as any since devised.

Studies in the Botany of California and Parts Adjacent.—IV. Edward Lee Greene. (Bull. Calif. Acad. Sci., ii., pp. 41-60; advance sheets.)

Under the caption "On some Cichoriaceous Compositæ," the author reviews the arrangement of the genus *Microseris* in Dr. Gray's Synoptical Flora N. A., and contends that its species are superlatively amplified. He proposes the restoration of the genus *Calais*, DC., to include five species of the above; *Scorzonella*, Nutt., to include eleven others; *Ptilocalais*, Gray, with three species, and *Nothocalais*, Greene, nov. gen., for those included in section *Nothocalais* of the genus *Microseris* by Dr. Gray; *Troximon cuspidatum*, Pursh., becomes *N. cuspidata*, Greene. Seven new species of these *Compositæ* are characterized. Mr. Greene also publishes descriptions of four new *Euphorbias*, two species of *Ranunculus* (*R. Bolanderi* and *R. Ludovicianus*); *Meconella denticulata*, *Argemone corymbosa* and *Draba Sonoræ*.

Tendril Movements in Cucurbita maxima and C. Pepo. D. P. Penhallow. (Amer. Journ. Sci., xxxi., pp. 100-114 and 178-189; concluded.)

The account of observations on the growth and circumnutations of the tendrils of these plants is continued, and the conclusions reached are presented. Mr. Penhallow finds that growth is promoted by an increase of temperature and humidity, and retarded by an increase of temperature when other conditions are not favorable, and also by excessive transpiration. Movements of tendrils and terminal buds, being phenomena of growth, are modified by whatever conditions affect growth. With regard to the circumnutations of the tendrils he concludes that they are owing to unequal growth by producing unequal tension of tissues, chiefly in the vibrogen tissue, which may therefore be regarded as the seat of movement. The transmission of impulses is effected through the continuity of protoplasm in the active tissues.

Virulence of the Common Parsnip. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Phil. Acad. Sci., 1885, p. 383.)

Mr. Meehan referred to the death of several children at Danville, Penn., in the spring of 1884, caused by eating the roots of the wild parsnip. Some of these roots had been sent him by the attending physician, and one of them bore marks of the children's teeth. They were planted, and grew into the true garden parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*, which has so commonly escaped from gardens. There seemed no chance for error in this case. It was subsequently ascertained that in the cultivated form some growers are careful about working among the leaves while the dew is on them, as severe cases of poisoning have resulted from this, and on large seed farms the workmen have to protect their hands and arms against contact with the juices, or risk poisoning similar to that from *Rhus toxicodendron.*

White seeded Variety of the Honey Locust. Thomas Meehan. (Proc. Phil. Acad. Sci., 1885, pp. 404, 405.)

The seeds of this tree, which grew near Germantown, Penn., were white instead of dark olive-brown as in the normal condition. It was of considerable age, and had evidently borne fruit for many years. The seeds were nearly orbicular in shape, instead of the usual narrowly-ovate form.

Botanical Notes.

Hard Rubber Slides.—For about six years I have been using a kind of rubber slide which I have found very convenient for various reasons, so that I think a description of it might be of some interest to microscopists. The slide is of ordinary length and width (3x1 in.), but quite thin (about 1-7 mm.), and is provided in the middle with a circular perforation about 15 mm. in diameter. I place the slide on the turntable, apply some cement to the edge of the perforation, and then fasten a 20 mm. cover glass (circle) on the rubber slide, which then can be used like an ordinary glass slide. Very thin sections or objects not requiring any cell may be mounted on the upper side of the circle (i.e., the side not touching the rubber), while, in order to mount thicker objects, or such as are to be protected from pressure, I simply invert the slide and have a cell the depth of which I can easily increase by a ring of cement in the usual way.

I hardly need to say that the principal advantage gained with this slide is that the observer is enabled to examine both sides of any object under the highest powers. Perforated slides have long been in use, but I am not aware that they were made of rubber,